

Remarks

Applicant acknowledges with thanks that the restriction requirement mailed 12/17/02 is no longer required. Accordingly, the species of ERK1/2 inhibitors, MEK inhibitors, JNK inhibitors and combinations thereof are being examined.

Applicant also acknowledges with thanks that claim 18 has been indicated as allowable.

Claims 1, and 3-28 are pending. Claims 1, 3-17 and 19-28 have been canceled and new claims 29-56 have been added. Support for the new claims can be found throughout the application. In particular, support for "fibroblast cell" can be found, e.g., at page 56, line 13. Support for new claim 51 can be found, e.g., at page 7, lines 16-19, and page 42, lines 5 and 8. Support for new claims 52-53 can be found, e.g., at page 40, lines 9-10. Support for new claims 54-55 can be found, e.g., at page 44, line 7. Support for new claim 56 can be found, e.g., at page 44, last line. No new matter has been added.

Cancellation of claims should in no way be construed as an acquiescence to any of the Examiner's rejections. The cancellation of claims is being made solely for business purposes. Applicants reserve the option to further prosecute the same or similar claims as those canceled in the instant or in a subsequent patent application.

Rejection of claims 1, 3-14 and 19-28 under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph

Claims 1, 3-14 and 19-28 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the inventor(s) at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. Claims 1, 3-14 and 19-28 have also been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as containing subject matter which was not described in the specification in such a way as to enable one skilled in the art to which it pertains, or with which it is most nearly connected, to make and/or use the invention. Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections.

Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1, 3-14 and 19-28 have been canceled for business purposes, in particular, to obtain claims to screening methods. Accordingly, the rejections have been rendered moot.

Thus, withdrawal of these rejections is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants submit that the pending claims are in condition for allowance. Early and favorable reconsideration is respectfully solicited. The Examiner may address any questions raised by this submission to the undersigned at 617-832-1000.

Respectfully submitted,
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